

think it is an important intent. We need to go on record and say that we want to see this activity, we want to see us move into the areas that the health care, the rest of the health care world is moving into and I would agree with Senator Wesely, that to move with a proposal that endorses a concept of joint venture with the likes of Clarkson Hospital which is the two facilities are separated by 60 feet of asphalt, is a good proposal, joint venture operation so that both of those facilities can use one another's expertise in various areas, use their physical plants to the best of their ability and not have duplication of services makes good sense. And for those reasons I think that the Schmit amendment detracts from LR 266 and the importance that we should put on this resolution and the implementation of the proposal that the Med Center has before the certificate of need process, and I would urge the body to reject Senator Schmit's amendment and to wholly endorse LR 266 in its present form. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labedz, please, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. The cost of going through the certificate of need is \$100,000. If the Med Center went through the certificate of need and then later was rejected by the Legislature, it would be a waste of \$100,000 and that is the cost of the certificate of need process. The Med Center does not plan to sidestep the certificate of need. They will go through the process as required but they would prefer to have the legislative approval through LR 266 before doing so. The process of the certificate of need, as I mentioned, is very, very expensive and if they did not get the approval of the certificate of need then the \$100,000 would have been wasted if we don't get the approval later of the Legislature, so I urge you to reject the amendment and adopt the amendment as originally written. And also, Senator Schmit mentioned the diminishing of the care for the indigent. That is absolutely incorrect. It would probably improve the indigent care because right now St. Joseph in the Med Center are noted for their indigent care and I certainly would not be standing before you and asking for your approval of LR 266 if I thought in any way the indigent care would be less with the Med Center than it is today. We must all remember that nationwide the University Med Center is becoming very famous with their bone marrow research and their liver transplants and I urge you to give them the opportunity to expand their care and bring the recognition that